

## Set the Record Straight

Last Updated Friday, 29 June 2007

The city of Boulder strives to provide accurate information to the public in a number of ways. For example, we often use the assistance of the media to communicate our messages. On occasion, we request a correction or clarification from the media on a story that may contain a factual error.

On this page, we hope to "set the record straight" by providing that factual information directly to the public, and we will post any corrections or clarifications that we have requested from the media.

City releases water revenues for January through May 2007 (June 29, 2007)

The city of Boulder Public Works Department released today updated year-to-date information pertaining to water billed revenue and use for the period of January through May 2007, comparing that data to the same time period in 2006.

The new water budget rate structure has been effective since January 2007, and the water billed revenue and use summary is as follows: Year-to-date numbers show a six percent decrease in revenues (\$5,362,208), as compared to last year's revenues (\$5,724,251) for the same time period. Additionally, year-to-date numbers show a 12 percent decrease in water usage (1,502,564 thousands of gallons used), as compared to last year's water usage (1,710,310 thousands of gallons used) at the same time.

Single-Family

Multi-Family

Commercial / Industrial

Irrigation Only

Total

Approximate # of customers / class

22,300

2,500

2,100

1,600

28,500

2007 Billed Revenue

\$2,143,194

\$1,289,262

\$1,693,156

\$236,596

\$5,362,208

2007 Use

(1,000 gallons)

517,386

426,845

527,033

31,300

1,502,564

2006 Billed Revenue

\$2,432,840

\$1,395,156

\$1,502,858

\$393,398

\$5,724,251

2006 Use

(1,000 gallons)

625,306

489,157

529,242

66,605

1,710,310

"We still feel that it is too early to tell what kind of impact the rate structure will have on annual revenues, as the majority of water use occurs during the irrigation season," said Director of Public Works for Utilities Ned Williams. "We expect these numbers for revenue and water use to fluctuate throughout the year."

The new water budget rate structure was created to allow for more flexibility in managing water use restrictions during times of water shortage or drought and to maintain current water conservation efforts.

The water budget rate structure was approved by City Council in December 2004. In November 2006, City Council approved the Block 2 rate of \$2.50. A rate analysis done last year showed that the \$2.50 Block 2 rate could provide approximately \$3 million of excess annual revenue, depending upon actual water use and adjustments to water budgets. Any excess revenue collected will stay within the water utility fund and City Council will determine how the revenue will be used and whether any excess revenue collected will result in a reduction or delay of future rate increases.

For more information, contact Ned Williams at (303) 441-3209 or visit [www.boulderwater.net/](http://www.boulderwater.net/).

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Pay stations make parking more customer friendly (April 2007)

This summer new parking technology in the form of pay stations will be introduced in downtown Boulder. The community has expressed great interest regarding these improvements.

The concept of replacing downtown parking meters with pay stations is not a new one. Downtown organizations have spent the past two years formally studying, discussing and engaging in public process surrounding pay stations. They concluded that this new technology would be a great improvement to the city's parking program. This conclusion and proposal is endorsed by the City Council, as well as the Downtown Boulder Business Improvement District, Downtown Management Commission and Downtown Boulder, Inc.

Solar powered parking pay stations offer many more convenient, customer-friendly benefits than our current meter technology. These include multiple payment options, fewer "overtime at meter" tickets, printed receipts, transferable time and parking efficiencies. Multiple payment options include debit/credit cards, coins, validation cards, and tokens. There is a direct correlation between fewer "overtime at meter" tickets and multiple payment options because users are not always searching for coins. Printed receipts display the expiration time reducing the guessing game of when the meter will expire. Transferable time means if there is still time on the printed receipt, it can be used in any other pay station locations throughout Boulder. Parking efficiencies are realized because it is no longer necessary to uniquely number spaces on the street, allowing for more spaces.

Pay station technology has been proven and is successful in many cities and shopping districts such as Aspen, Cherry Creek, Larimer Square, Tempe, Tacoma, Syracuse, Georgetown, Arlington, Portland, and many other locations in the United States and worldwide.

Financing of this new technology comes from a rate increase and extended meter hours. City Council approved a previously planned 25 cent per hour increase six months early. This increase allows the city to proceed with parking technology without compromising budgeted capital improvements in the downtown city-owned garages. Meter time has been extended to 7 p.m. in response to requests from downtown merchants and restaurants to better manage customer vs. employee parking. The changes will become effective in two stages. Garages will see rate increases in May. On-street changes will become effective when the pay stations are installed later this summer.

The following are understandable concerns that we would like to clarify:

- Accessible/handicap parking will remain metered to accommodate people with reduced mobility. Staff has presented to and received positive feedback from the disabled community.
- You will not get a ticket while paying at the pay station. The distance to the station will be in view of the parking area, and parking management officers know to look for you before issuing a ticket.
- The city is committed to supporting bicycling. There are currently over 1,100 spaces for bikes in downtown Boulder. The city will convert a sufficient number of the old meter posts to bike racks to encourage biking downtown.
- Some of the old meter poles will remain to accommodate pay station directional signage and for bicycle racks, but the overall goal is to create a more pedestrian-friendly open streetscape.
- Some of the old meters will remain in the outlying areas where there are isolated islands of meters; and some will be sold.
- The removal of the excess meters and poles will be the responsibility of current meter technicians.
- Some meters will be converted into donation stations for raising money for non-profits.

The city has received six proposals from vendors for the new pay station technology. A selection based on price, quality, capability and service will be made in about 30 days. Based on the proposals, an average cost per pay station is estimated at \$8,000. Depending on the number of pay stations installed the cost downtown could be between \$1.1 to \$1.6 million. Every effort will be made to lower the cost of the pay stations through negotiations and design balancing customer convenience. The existing downtown meters were due for replacement at a cost of approximately \$400,000.

The city and selected vendor will work on a comprehensive design plan for the placement of the pay stations balancing customer convenience with cost. Placement depends on several factors such as convenience, sunlight for solar power, and the length of a block. Pay to park signs with directional arrows will be posted on each block. The city in collaboration with Downtown Boulder Inc. will conduct a comprehensive education campaign to help the public learn how to use the pay stations.

Parking meter and garage revenues are reinvested in the community to pay for:

- Events, banners and downtown ambassadors
- Downtown improvements such as the pop jet fountain and the weeping rock
- Downtown employee ECO passes
- Operations and maintenance
- Parking garage construction
- Downtown economic vitality
- Surveys, studies and databases
- New parking technology
- Marketing programs

We are committed to providing updated, accurate information to the community during this transition from parking meters to parking pay stations. Please check [www.boulderparking.com/](http://www.boulderparking.com/) for further information.